

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 16 and 17 have been amended, at least partly in response to issues raised in the Office Action. New claims 18-20 have been added. Support for claim 18 may be found in Table 1 on page 5 of the specification; support for claim 19 may be found in Table 2 on page 6; support for claim 20 may be found on page 7, lines 5-6. Claims 1-20 are now in this application.

Applicant confirms the election of Group II, claims 16 and 17, in response to the telephonic restriction requirement made on March 7, 2003. Claims 2, 3 and 5-10 have been converted to article of manufacture claims. Claims 1, 4 and 11-15 have been amended to depend upon elected claim 17. Upon the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant requests that non-elected process claims 1, 4 and 11-15 be rejoined with the elected claims in accordance with the procedure set forth in M.P.E.P. §821.04.

The rejection of claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been obviated by rewriting claims 16-17 as independent claims.

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,934,066 to Murch for the reasons set forth in paragraph (9) of the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested in view of the above amendments and for at least the following reasons.

Claims 16 and 17, as amended, are directed to a wall covering which is flexible, fire and abrasion resistant, and can easily be removed from a substrate such as a wall without the necessity of employing special adhesives or using costly and time-consuming procedures. The strippable wall covering defined by the present claims comprises a glass fiber fabric having a first layer composed of a starch and a polymeric latex binder on both sides of the fabric and a second layer comprising paraffin wax and a rheology modifier applied to one side only of the coated fabric to facilitate removal of the wall covering. A wall covering of this structure is not disclosed in Murch '066.

This reference discloses a fire-resistant intumescent laminate comprising an intumescent sheet 11, a protective layer 12 and an adhesive layer 13 (Fig. 2). According to the Office Action, protective layer 12 "corresponds to Applicant's first dried coating" and adhesive layer 13 "corresponds to Applicant's second dried layer." Clearly, the laminates of Murch '066 do not anticipate the wall coverings set forth in claims 16 and 17, as amended.

Specifically, the protective layer 12 of Murch '066 is not composed of a starch and a polymer latex binder, and is not applied to both surfaces of the intermediate sheet 11. Furthermore, the adhesive layer 13 is not composed of a paraffin wax and a rheology modifier.

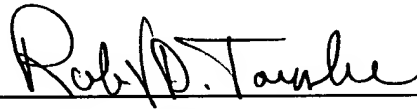
Therefore, the §102(b) rejection over Murch '066 should be withdrawn. Such action is earnestly requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are

any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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